

SHORELINER



For the Love of the Lake... Fall comes to Boone Lake

BOONE LAKE ASSOCIATION
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WATCHING THE WATERS

Fall 2023

 [@boonelakeassociation](https://www.instagram.com/boonelakeassociation)

President's Letter, Frank Hahne



Fall is here! As leaves fall and the lake-level drops let's recall our wonderful warm summer memories – thanks to a restored dam and a renewed lake. We are almost through the year and **I would like to recap our 2023 goals, share some encouraging insights and give thanks to you.**

JOIN US – over 300 of you did for the annual Spring Cleanup Day and Picnic. This month we welcome our newest volunteer Board Member, Karen Stigall, who lives on Blue Friday cove with her family and works for Evans & Evans as a realtor. Two new volunteers have joined the Water Quality Committee to assure testing. Our youngest addition is a rising Science Hill scholar-athlete who worked on the lake crew this summer and still has had time to build out **our new Instagram site**, with a following of a couple of thousand BLA supporters – check it out on page 6.

HELP US. You have reached **82% of our \$100,000 Individual Contributor's Goal** this year! If you are not already supporting BLA we hope you will consider doing so; and if you have a year-end opportunity to consider us – please do. We have exceeded our Corporate Sponsor's Goal of \$50,000 thanks to long-time supporters, and newly added ones, you can see on page 3. **Additionally, we thank TVA, Yamaha and BLM for \$35,000 of In-Kind donations** of a dock, a 175 HP Yamaha motor and boat rigging equipment that helped BLA complete our 30 'log-handling barge that will replace worn-out pontoon boats.

HELP YOU. Some insights to our goals for 2023:

- **Clear the waterways** – to protect your boats and more importantly your kids tubing, knee-boarding or surfing the lake: BLA intercepted, demolished and removed a record number

of floating, derelict docks and tons of floating and submerged trees from Spring and Summer storms pushing them down the Watauga and S. Holston rivers.

- **Test the waters** – the last thing you wish is for an elevated level of E. coli to go unreported. Two new volunteers strengthened our summer sampling and BLA added electronic instrumentation to the test equipment used on the lake this season.
- **Hot Line** – (423) 360-5057 allows anyone to call-in 24/7 and our Lake Ops Committee to pick up threats and issues. BLA received and closed almost 100 logged requests this Spring and Summer utilizing a newly implemented mobile phone dispatching system that allows daily task communication to crews working on the lake.
- **Communicate** – educate and advocate for Boone Lake's interests in the community through Meet-The Mountain outreach to 10,000 and working with regional area groups. Please see a couple of Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation school poster "One Water" awards below.
- **Sustain BLA** – whatever it takes to serve you for another 40 years: funding, crew, boats, volunteers, etc. 2023 has revived BLA to a level that assures our 41st year by **balancing the outgoing operating budget with incoming contributions** – TVA restored the dam and you have renewed BLA's ability to protect it. Thank You all for your Help.

Frank

Frank Hahne, CEO

Meet Our Newest Board Member . . . Karen Stigall



I was born and raised in North East Tennessee and grew up on Boone Lake. This lake has always been a magical place for me and my family! Our son has been raised on this lake since he was two. We live full time on the lake and are proud to call it home

Being a realtor, I promote all the great values of this lake and our local area to prospective clients. I want to see this lake community thrive with boating, skiing, family outings, picnics, fishing, playing in the park and all of the other great activities that can be enjoyed here on the lake and in our local communities year-round.

I joined Boone Lake Association as a way to give back to the lake I love and where my family calls home! I want to ensure the safety and cleanliness of Boone Lake not only for us, but for future generations as well! #ILoveBooneLake



BLA Contributor Update - Gary Parker



Beginning in early 2023 BLA researched and expanded our stakeholder database from approximately 2,500 to now over 7,000 in the greater Boone Lake area in an attempt to spread the cost of supporting your BLA organization to not only 1,700 lakefront property owners, but to all of our users, including an outreach to over a 1,000 boat slip renters. **This has resulted in over 100 new contributors to BLA.**

We ended 2022 with 481 contributors, a far stretch from our goal of 600 matching 2014 prior to the dam repair. **We CAN get back to that 600-level** if our loyal 2022 contributors who have not responded yet in 2023 return.

Boone Lake is such a valuable asset to our area and most meaningful to all lakefront owners. Even a small contribution goes a long way toward maintaining the cleanliness and safety of Boone Lake. If you haven't yet joined in, then we ask you to please step up and **Join Us - Help Us - Help You**. BLA is on a mission to maintain Boone Lake as our safe and clean place to recreate.



Save the Date April 29, 2024

It's Our Silver Anniversary .. and we plan to Celebrate !!!!

The Boone Lake Association will hold its 25th Annual Cash for Trash Clean-up on Saturday, April 29, 2024. This highly successful annual event is due to the support of local businesses, corporate sponsors, governmental agencies and most importantly you, the approximately 300 volunteers that come out annually to help keep Boone Lake clean and safe. Plans to celebrate this hallmark event are underway.

Please contact us (Boonelakeassociation@gmail.com) if you would be interested in being a sponsor for this significant milestone.

A few words from Past President, Tom McKee

My term as President of the Boone Lake Association appears to have been the shortest; from January to May 2018 but for a very good reason. This was an extremely challenging time for the Board as the lake drawdown to repair the dam was a reality and membership and revenue dropped substantially. At the same time, we recognized that the debris retrieval equipment we had would be inadequate to address the increased challenges once the lake returned. As a former local elected official, I perhaps recognized more than most the importance of TVA's Reservoir system to our region's very survival and the amount of revenue that the lake recreational activities generated toward our local economy. The Board adopted the strategy of approaching our local municipal governments that had a vested interest in the lake's continued operation to provide one time funding to allow BLA to purchase modern debris removal equipment. I volunteered to assume responsibility for this task and resigned as President in order to devote my time and energy to

this effort. We were successful in securing funding from Johnson City and Washington County, Sullivan County followed shortly and eventually the City of Bristol. This funding, along with support from other businesses, enabled BLA to acquire a commercial skimmer and a barge with an hydraulic crane. This new equipment, along with our faithful employees, remain a key component of our on-lake operations today.

Today, I am 83 years old, live on the lake, and Boone Lake has been a significant part of my life since it was formed in 1951. Now retired from legal practice, I remain committed to BLA, and provide legal advice when requested, particularly in regard to governmental issues. If you love Upper East Tennessee, don't take for granted the importance of the TVA's Reservoir System and the importance of BLA's operations in maintaining Boone Lake's cleanliness and safety. Your support keeps the BLA crew and its equipment on the lake.

The Lowdown on the Drawdown

- Val Kosmider



We have seen and heard many questions and comments concerning the annual fall drawdown of Boone Lake. We asked TVA and TVA River Operations provided the following rationale.

Autumn is upon us in the Tennessee Valley. With its mild weather and ample natural resources, it's understandable that people want to continue going outside to enjoy Boone Lake.

Protecting the Valley

The annual drawdown at Boone begins in early September and continues through early December. The primary objective of this seasonal drawdown is to prepare the reservoir for potential flooding during a time of year when flood risk is higher, typically winter through early spring. Beginning the drawdown as early as September is necessary due to the amount of time needed to make controlled releases of water through hydroelectric generators and yet still achieve winter target by early to mid-December. The early September start date, while allow-

While TVA recognizes holding Boone Reservoir at summer pool during September and October would provide positive recreational benefit, we also know that this action would be in direct conflict with TVA's Reservoir Operating Policy which was implemented in 2004 at the directive of the TVA Board. The operating policy takes into account many factors such as flood

control, water quality, water supply, navigation, recreation and hydroelectric power and provides a balanced approach to managing TVA's 49 reservoirs in an integrated manner. In fact, one significant outcome of the 2004 policy review provided for a 10-foot increase in winter levels at Boone versus the previous operating policy.

ing for the lake to remain full for the popular Labor Day weekend holiday, also takes into account the potential for tropical hurricane remnants that could bring damaging rainfall totals into the system.

Higher lake levels during any period of year would directly increase the flood risk to communities immediately downstream of Boone as well as in other areas of the Tennessee River Valley. In fact, TVA helps avert hundreds of millions of dollars in flood damage every year and as recent as

2019-2020, the system averted over \$2.5 billion in flood damages. TVA affords the same level of commitment to downstream stakeholders for flood protection as the commitment that has been shown to stakeholders along the lake for returning the lake to favorable levels.

ViewBoone Operating Guide (tva.com), or to get the latest on daily lake elevations, generation release and more, lake enthusiasts can check out TVA's Lake Level App.

Burn Permits

It's that time of year again, burn piles begin to appear all around the lake. As a reminder Burn Permits are required between October 15th and May 15th.

The following info is provided by the TN Dept of Forestry:

Online permits may be obtained daily from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. for any size leaf and/or brush burn pile, as well as prescribed fires and broadcast burning, such as for forestry, agricultural, or land clearing applications. Each fire should be completely extinguished by the permit expiration. Residents with limited internet access may call the Division of Forestry burn permit phone number at 877-350-BURN (2876)

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Central Time or residents of Sullivan County can call (423) 239-5811 and Washington County (423) 753-4011 during normal business hours.

Anyone needing to burn within an incorporated city should contact city authorities about any local burning ordinances. Many towns and cities have their own burning regulations that supersede the Division of Forestry's burning permit program.

Permits will not be issued on days and in locations if it is considered unsafe to conduct a debris burn.

For information on what materials may NOT be burned in Tennessee, please visit Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's

Open Burning Guidelines. To report illegal burning, please call toll-free 1-888-891-TDEC

Follow these simple tips to conduct a SAFE DEBRIS BURN

1. CHECK FOR LOCAL RESTRICTIONS AND OBTAIN A BURN PERMIT IF REQUIRED
2. NOTIFY YOUR NEIGHBORS
3. KEEP WATER AND TOOLS HANDY
4. ESTABLISH FIREBREAKS
5. WATCH THE WEATHER
6. CONTROL THE FIRE
7. STAY WITH YOUR FIRE

LAKE OPERATIONS UPDATE - Jeanette Bailey



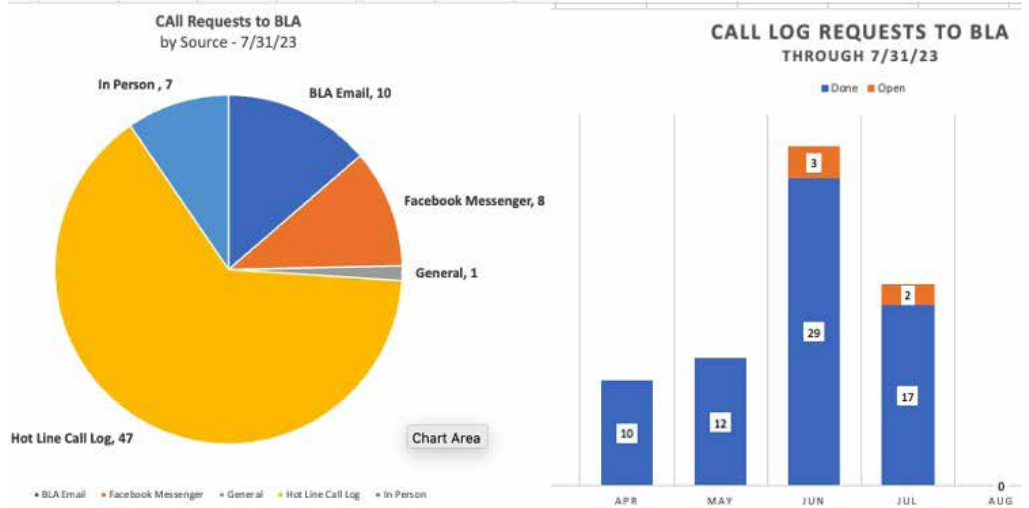
What a wonderful boating season it was on Boone in 2023! Capt Jon and the crew work year round to ensure the water and waterways are clear. Our crew is spending their days clearing the logs and debris from the major waterways whenever our contributors' call list is up to date. Year-to-Date the crew has closed 94 Call Log Requests!



Lake Ops – Call Log Requests

Please continue to report any safety hazards or any lake issues to our Hot Line 423-360-5057. We need your continued financial support, labor and fuel are our main expenses which is what it takes to keep Boone **clean** and **safe**.

OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT. BLA's GPS-enabled time clock system also allows our volunteer Lake Operations Chair to assign priorities and trans-



mit useful contributor requests information directly to the on-lake crew

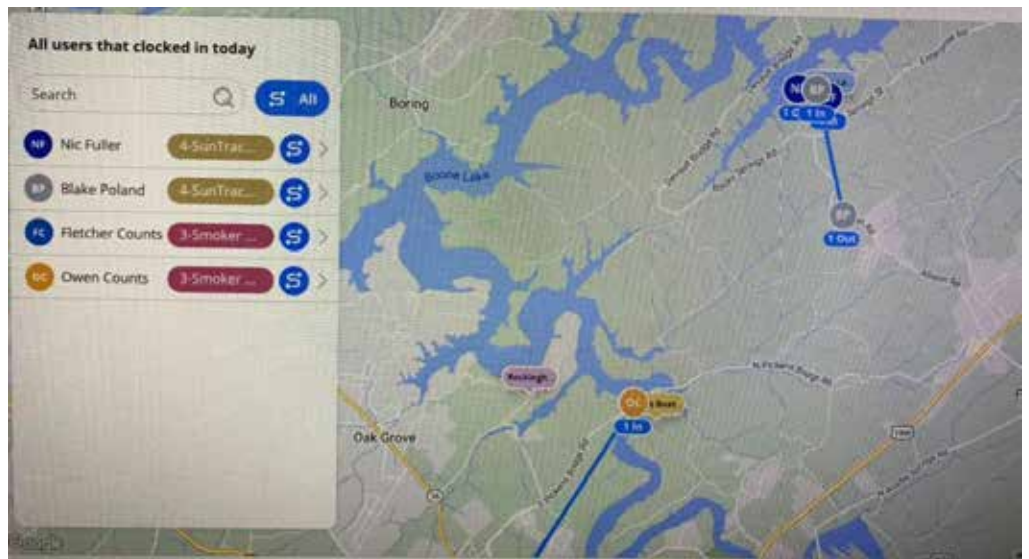
phones, thereby helping them plan daily work the evenings before.

Thank You Johnson City!

BLA appreciates the continued support of Johnson City with the dumpsters and ramp debris pickup at Wing Deer Park and Pickens Bridge. Their help allows us to clear the Watauga channel more effectively than the northern South Holston channel.

SULLIVAN COUNTY HELP NEEDED.

Debris, trash and trees flowing from the South Holston river into Boone lake at Bluff City has been an issue for years. BLA has always struggled to dispose of Bluff City debris since it is very costly to transport to all the way to Point #9. The Sullivan County Attorney has explained that the High-



way Department cannot legally pick up wood/logs from South Holston shoreline locations including the 11E bridge. BLA is continuing to explore

how to arrange an acceptable and workable solution to better support Bluff City and the expanded Lakeview RV Park area.

LAKE OPS CREW. If you love the lake and want to join the BLA crew, we are looking for another full-time employee. Send Resume to boonelakeassociation@gmail.com. The following shows how BLA, with temporary summer students helping the year-round crew, has achieved 3,570 man-hours through September 2023 to accomplish our tasks and mission. This compares to less than 3,000 man-hours last year.



BLA'S CREW EFFORTS TO KEEP PICKENS BRIDGE RAMP CLEAR OF CHANNEL DEBRIS

Just a few of BLA's 2023 INSTAGRAM Campaigns - Fletcher Counts



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BOONE LAKE MARINA

Boone Lake Fishing Report 2023

— Jon Black

With the leaves falling and the crispness in the air, in the Smoky Mountain range, there is no better time to be on the water. Water temperatures are headed down from their summertime highs, with that comes the fall feeding frenzy from all species of fish. Big Shad schools are beginning to show up all over the lake. Shad have been growing all year, and begin to die off in the colder water temps. All predatory fish will be seeking out these schools of baitfish. Bass will be schooling up, chasing this bait, topwater's, crankbaits, and jerk baits, will perform best. These baits closely resemble the forage they are chasing. An important fact to remember is to match the size of the lure you are using, to the size of the bait you are fishing around. Doing this will in-

crease your odds of hookups. Striped Bass are moving up the rivers, and are actively feeding on bait. Topwater has been an exciting way to catch them. Freelineing live baits is another effective technique that anyone can use effectively.

With the amount of fishing pressure that Boone Lake experiences, many organizations came together to help rally for fish stocking programs our lake. Over the last few years as lake levels have leveled off, in association with the TWRA, 50,000F1 hybrid Florida strain largemouth bass were stocked into the lake. These bass are growing fast, as per design, but the need for more stocking is evident. Boone Lake receives large amounts of fishing pressure, whether from the land-based fisherman or from boaters. More Bass fingerlings will be released in the coming months to ensure healthy populations of fish

for all anglers alike to experience. With an accelerated growth rate of these fish, the lake populations should be returning to a sustainable level.

Whether you fish, kayak, or sightsee, this is an amazing time to enjoy the lake. Fall foliage is in peak colors and the cooler weather make the temps rather enjoyable. So, get out and enjoy the lake. And, as always, we appreciate your continued support of the BLA, without you, we could not keep the lake as safe and clear.

Keep those lines tight,
Capt. Jonathan Black



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FALL 2023

The Boone Lake Association is a not-for-profit 501c3. Your contributions may be tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations. Please check current rules for tax purposes as IRS tax codes may change. We appreciate your support! Every dollar you contribute goes to helping to keep Boone Lake clean and safe for everyone's enjoyment.

**THANK YOU FOR CONTRIBUTING
 GENEROUSLY TO KEEP BOONE LAKE CLEAN**

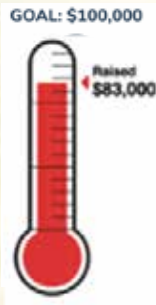


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Contact me about volunteering.

www.boonelakeassociation.org



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